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DISSEMINATING COLLIER FAMILY GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INFORMATION

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## A Collier's Visit to Caulieres, France

JANUARY 10, 2024 8:49 PM \ [4 COMMENTS](#) \ [BY COLLIERHERITAGE](#) \ [EDIT](#)

Originally posted on September 14, 2019.

*a reflection by Terri Collier*

On a recent trip to France, mom Terri and daughter Nellie Collier traveled from Paris to Caulières, the village from which the Collier family got its name. Based on the research gathered at the Collier Heritage Foundation and genealogical records handed down, a 2<sup>nd</sup> son of a Barony was appointed Magistrate over an abbey and the village it owned in the Somme region of France. The village was named Caulières and having no land of his own, he took the name of the village, thus becoming Johanne Caulières (later Anglicized to Collier).

In addition to seeing the home of our ancestors, we hoped to visit the church where, according to records, a number of Collier ancestors served as priest in the 1300's. Despite my failed attempts at advanced contact with residents of this small village (209 people in 2006), we arrived in Caulières unannounced. When Nellie asked if we had a plan, I said "Yes. We're going to walk around town until someone asks us why we're here" — and that is precisely what happened!



This lovely lady was on her morning walk when we inquired if we could ask her a few questions about the village. Thankfully she spoke English and was a very friendly and helpful tour guide. We explained our connection to the village and ask if it would be possible to see inside the church. She led us to her friend's house, the literal keeper of the keys, who immediately demanded to know what we wanted to do in "her" church!



After a five minute discussion (which seemed a bit heated), our second guide joined our procession to the church. More conversation and a generous donation to the church warmed up the keeper of the keys and we heard much about her church, which is only used for worship one Sunday a year and for weddings and funerals.





The stone portion of the church dates to the 1300's and is a quaint, but beautiful tribute to the faith of the generations in this lovely village. (Shown here with Nellie).



The inside of the church was simple, but well tended. We were told that the original abbey was a ruin in a nearby field, with its remaining walls only a few inches tall.





Sometimes teaching your children to appreciate their heritage takes you on a wild goose chase. There were plenty of eye-rolls and a few protests, but I promise you that one day, Nellie will tell *her* children about the day we went to the home of her ancestors!



Our visit was capped off by an introduction to the mayor, who was out riding his bike, and an inquiry from the police, seen here talking with the mayor. They were wondering who these strangers were on a Monday morning walking around their small village!

All in all, it was a day well-spent!

When I asked our guides about the history of Caulières (which apparently means cabbage), the “key lady” graciously invited us into her home, where she shared these two clippings. Could someone in Collier-land translate them?



### Le saviez-vous?

↳ **Etymologie**, de caulis le chou, qui donne cauleria le lieu planté de choux, qui donnera Caulières.

↳ **Rue du Lieutenant Spindler**, ainsi dénommée en hommage à ce soldat qui a combattu en nos murs lors de la guerre 1939-1945 et qui a eu la citation suivante:

*SPINDLER - Lieutenant - 49ème B.C.A.  
Officier plein d'allant, a fait preuve d'abnégation et de remarquable courage au cours des combats du 6 juin 1940, faisant l'admiration de tous par son mépris du danger. Est tombé glorieusement à la tête de sa section. Cette citation comporte l'attribution de la Croix de Guerre 1939-1945 avec palme.*

↳ **Rue Desforges**, la famille Desforges possédait, jusqu'à la révolution les 7/8èmes de la seigneurie de Caulières. Le dernier M. Desforges a donné à la commune de Caulières la place communale et le Frier pour fournir gratuitement des parcelles de jardin aux ouvriers nécessiteux.

↳ **1895** - Camille BOETTE, Maire de Caulières réunit son conseil afin d'étudier un devis d'habillement pour les 25 pompiers de la Commune

↳ **1906** - 38 personnes travaillent dans les 3 entreprises qui fabriquent des brosses, et un petit monde d'artisans s'y active: un boucher, un cafetier, deux couturières, un cordonnier, un épicier, une marchande de nouveautés, un marchand de charbon, un maréchal-ferrant, un menuisier, une repasseuse, une scierie de bois et batteuse.

↳ **1930** - Arrivée de l'électricité.



## Caulières

D-8

*Sup. 541 ha. Alt. 184 m. Pop. 177 h.*

« Cauliers », en 1169. Au 12<sup>e</sup>, l'abbaye de Selincourt fonda à Caulières une cour dite « de St-Nicolas-de-Caulières », qui devint le village de Lamaronde. Possédait une maison seigneuriale. La terre reçut le titre de vicomté au 18<sup>e</sup>.

● En 1846, découverte dans un vase en terre noire de nombreuses médailles de bronze du bas Empire, près du « Chemin Flamand ». Substructions gallo-romaines. ▲ Église Ste-Marie-Madeleine 18<sup>e</sup> : chœur 16<sup>e</sup>, porte voûtée plein cintre, nef 18<sup>e</sup>, larmier en accolade orné d'écussons; piscine Renaissance voûtée en anse de panier.

\* Vallée Mademoiselle. Site boisé. ♣  
Fourrage, céréales. Bovins, porcins. ♥  
Fête patronale : 22/7; communale : dim.  
suivant 22/7.

Terri Stagner Collier, wife of Christopher Reid Collier

Nellie's genealogy from the Barnesville, GA line:



Isaac Cuthbert Collier 1846 – 1908

Jena Cuthbert Collier 1866 – 1944

Durward Cuthbert Collier 1890 – 1979

Jena Cuthbert Collier II 1917 – 2003

Christopher Reid Collier 1958 – present

Nellie Catherine Collier 2000 – present



Here is another view of the Church using GoogleEarth Streetview.

Using GoogleEarth, type 'Caulières, France' in the search bar and then 'enter'. At the village, zoom in on "D92" at the intersection of Rue de'n Haut and Rue de l'Eglise.

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4 Thoughts on "A Collier's Visit to Caulieres, France"





Jerome Collier

on [January 24, 2024 at 5:22 am](#) said:

[Edit](#)

Hi Terry,

I am Jerome Collier, as a French I particularly appreciated your report !

It is not impossible that we share this common origin.

As you ask, please find hereunder a translation of the main facts reported in the paper you were given, with my approximative english.

First sheet :

Caulières comes from the latin cauliera, field of cabbages.

Lieutenant Spindler has served bravely during the 1939-45 war in Caulières and died with glory while commanding his unit.

Desforges family owned 7/8 of the village until french revolution (1789)

1906 : 38 persons are working in the 3 brush companies, and multiples craftsmen and traders.

1930 : electricity arrives in the village

Second sheet :

Caulières was « Cauliers » in 1169.

During XII th century, Selincourt abbey established in Caulières a yard called « Saint Nicolas de Caulières », which became the village of Lamaronde.

In 1846, discovery of a vase containing medals, dated from the roman empire – between IIIrd and Vth century.

The church was built XVIII th century, except the choir which is from XVI th.

The village produces forage, grains, beef, pork.

Saint celebration : July 27th

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collierheritage

on [January 24, 2024 at 9:34 pm](#) said:

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Jerome, thank you so much for your contribution! It is much appreciated. What else can you tell us? For example, what do you know about Lieutenant Spindler?

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Jerome Collier

on [January 26, 2024 at 11:49 am](#) said:

[Edit](#)

Hi,  
More details about Lieutenant Spindler, as stated in the paper of Terry:

Lieutenant Spindler, 49e BCA

He showed remarkable self-sacrifice and courage during the fighting on June 6, 1940, earning the admiration of all by his disregard for danger. Fell gloriously at the head of his section. This citation is accompanied by the award of the Croix de Guerre with Palm Leaf.

More generally, the best source document I identified about this origin in Caulieres is the book of Vaughn Ballard "Robert Terrell Collier his ancestors", which itself does not mention a source that would prove the story (see page 3 of the book "Johannes de Liestes"). The story is beautiful, but the only checkable fact is the citation of one name, Brother Jean de Caouliere ("Frater Johannes de Caoulières" in the original text) .

I wonder if someone has more source, or an email address to contact the author Vaughn Ballard? He seems to live in Arlington, TX.

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collierheritage

on [January 26, 2024 at 10:02 pm](#) said:

[Edit](#)

Unfortunately, Mr. Ballard passed away several years ago (2013, I believe).

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